

DHS

DHS Hits High Notes on West Coast

By DANIEL DI CENSO

For most members of the Duxbury High School music program, the competition in San Francisco came at just the right point in their high school career. Not only did they come home with 12 awards, but they also ended their high school years seeing the result of four years' worth of practice.

"We felt kinda bad in a way," said senior Matt Payne. "We weren't even from California and we came in and took all these awards, while bands from the area didn't do so well."

Representing Duxbury in the competition were the chamber singers, string ensemble, wind ensemble, and jazz ensemble. The Gold, the highest-ranking award, was given to the string ensemble, the wind ensemble, and jazz



The DHS wind ensemble took the gold in San Francisco.

ensemble. The band left Duxbury for California on April 25 and received the awards on April 28, before leaving San Francisco the following day. The chamber

singers walked away with the Silver Award. Other awards received were for the most outstanding orchestra and jazz band.

Senior Heather Pakstis,

who plays the flute for the wind ensemble said, that it was the support from the entire group that made such a large win possible.

Sarah Mortland, also a senior and French horn player for the wind ensemble, said, "Lots of people thought we wouldn't do as well, especially since we weren't from California. Also, we hadn't done as well in the previous year's competition."

Erin Call, one of the few juniors that participated in the competition, who plays the flute and piccolo for the wind ensemble, said that she plans to use the lesson she learned this year to repeat the success next year.

"You have to be as good as you can be," Call said.

continued on page 4

Duxbury Clipper

P. 4

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

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continued from page one
"Everybody has to work together."

Senior Lija Treibergs, who plays the oboe, meanwhile, said that she plans to take the lessons she learned this year and apply them to life after high school.

Treibergs calls her career in the Duxbury High School music program a "big part of her life."

Brian Hanafin, a senior drummer, said that the most significant aspect for him at the concert was not only the amount of awards received, but also seeing the amount of seniors that participated in the event.

Hanafin also said that the event showed him just how much being a part of the Duxbury High School music experience enriched his experience.

"Half of the peers who are my friends would not have been my friend," Hanafin said.

Matt Payne, who plays in the wind ensemble and jazz band, said that in addition to the experience, the school's music program is, "a lot of fun."



Relaxing at the Hard Rock: Ian Davis, Miles Gillis and Grant Bowen.

Ric Madru, the school's music director, talks proudly of the band's accomplishments.

"They were all where they were supposed to be, when they were supposed to be there," Madru said. "They handled the event so well."

The band consists of almost 400 students, Madru said, and for the past few years played on 12 concert

stages in Disney World around the parks because that was the only place big enough to hold the entire band. This was their first venture out into the West Coast, bringing only 127 of those students.

Jim Vinci, a band instructor, said that this first venture was a success, "all around. It was well planned and it was great to see how they bonded."